

**REMARKS**

In response to the restriction requirement dated March 19, 2007, Applicants hereby elect Species I of Figures 1 to 3 without traverse. We believe that claim 21 reads on Species I and that claims 22 to 23 and 30 are generic in addition to claims 20, 25 to 29 and 31 to 35, which have been identified as generic in the restriction requirement. Claim 24 has been withdrawn without traverse. Claim 27 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

With respect to claims 22 and 23, claims 22 and 23 refer to an open-type of brush seal, which is well suited for the sealing arrangements of either Species I or of Species II. It is thus respectfully submitted that claims 22 and 23 are generic and read on both Species I and Species II.


With respect to claim 30, claim 30 recites: "The sealing arrangement as recited claim 25, wherein the bristle elements are radially preloaded such that they have a curved shape in the radial direction." The bristle elements included in the sealing arrangements of either Species I or of Species II can be "radially preloaded such that they have a curved shape in the radial direction." It is thus respectfully submitted that claim 30 is also generic and reads on both Species I and Species II.

No fee is believed required. If any fee is required at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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